THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited was found routing incoming international calls with domestic Calling Line Identification (CLI) in trunk groups meant for domestic calls in violation of the Interconnect Agreement with BSNL and MTNL. For this violation, BSNL has asked M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited on 29th October, 2004 to pay Rs. 182 crores. However, M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited appealed against this before the Hon'ble High Court and the matter is pending. While the total dues pending against M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited from BSNL as on 5.11.2004 was Rs. 257 crores, they have only paid approximately Rs. 100 crores so far. MTNL has made a claim of Rs. 341.27 crores against M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited and M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Limited has paid Rs. 66.76 crores to MTNL.

(c) and (d) The volume of compensation claimed by MTNL and BSNL has to be as per their interconnect agreement with M/s. Reliance Infocomm. Matter is at present subjudice.

(e) DoT has issued a notice imposing penalty of Rs. 150 crores for violation of licence agreements to M/s. Reliance Infocomm. on 24.11.2004. BSNL & MTNL are taking action as per Interconnect Agreement between them and M/s. Reliance Infocomm. for recovery of the loss.

Frauds committed in money order handling

101. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of money orders and amount of money transmitted by the Postal Department through money order during the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is inordinate delay in money order delivery, particularly in far-flung areas;

(c) if so, the measures contemplated to eradicate incidents of delayed delivery of M.O.;

(d) whether Government have received reports of frauds being committed in the M.O. handling; and

(e) if so, the details in this regard and the action taken to check such menace in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The number and amount of money transmitted through money order during the last three years is as follows:-

Year	No. of money order issued (in millions)	Amount of money orders (Rs. in millions)
2001-02	112.18	61882.57
2002-03	105.03	86500.04
2003-04	99.30	68570.24

(b) Yes Sir, in some cases.

(c) Delay has been noticed in respect of 106222 money orders, *i.e.* 0.107% of the total money order traffic in the year 2003-04. The delays occur due to cancellation/late running of mail carrying trains and buses, mis-sending of money orders, incomplete address, non-availability of addresses, change in the residence of the addressee without intimation to the Postmaster, non-availability of cash in Branch Offices and negligence on the part of concerned employees in certain cases. 150 High Speed Very Small Aperture Terminal (V-SAT) Stations and 1204 Extended Satellite Money Order (ESMO) Stations have been set up in the country for faster transmission of money orders. Steps to eradicate delay in money order delivery is a continuous exercise undertaken by the Department through various methods like upgradation of technology and software and regular monitoring through the supervisory and field staff and also taking appropriate action against the erring officials.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) During the year 2003-04, 264 cases involving an amount of Rs. 33,81,440.75 were detected. Suitable departmental action is taken against erring officials. Instructions for strict supervision by inspecting officers and following the prescribed procedures by all concerned and checking squads at all levels are in place and a need to keep vigilant watch on money order payment system are reiterated at regular intervals by various authorities.